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RUEHKE/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA 1403  
RUEHLC/AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE 1109  
RUEHNNJ/AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA 1077  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 005239

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [PINR](#) [CD](#) [SU](#) [FR](#)  
SUBJECT: FRANCE: ENDING CHAD'S SUPPORT TO DARFUR MILITIAS

REF: A. STATE 124400

[1](#)B. N'DJAMENA 1006

Classified By: Political Minister-Counselor Josiah Rosenblatt, reason  
1.5 (b/d).

[1](#)1. (C) SUMMARY: In response to ref A demarche, MFA  
DAS-equivalent Foucher said on August 2 that France shared  
the USG's concerns about Chadian support for militias in  
Darfur but believed that President Deby was not responsible  
for this support, which was being provided by other Chadians  
over whom Deby had only limited control. The GOF would not  
oppose sanctions against Daoussa Deby and others. The GOF  
was concerned about signs of a buildup among Chadian rebel  
forces in Sudan that perhaps signaled an offensive against  
N'Djamena after the end of the rainy season in mid-September  
and before a new UN mission could be deployed. French FM  
Dousté-Blazy is planning to attend Deby's inauguration  
ceremony August 8 in N'Djamena. JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim on  
August 1 reiterated to the French his opposition to the  
Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA). END SUMMARY.

#### CHAD SUPPORT FOR MILITIAS

[1](#)2. (C) After receiving ref A points on July 31, MFA  
DAS-equivalent for West Africa Bruno Foucher responded on  
August 2, during a meeting that included MFA Sudan deskoff  
Jeremie Robert. Foucher said the GOF shared USG concerns  
about Chad's and Sudan's support for militias operating  
across their respective borders. He indicated that the GOF  
had conveyed its concerns to both sides, emphasizing the need  
to shut down the militias as a step toward regional peace.  
Concerning Chad, and echoing Ref B, Foucher said the GOF did  
not believe President Deby was personally involved in any  
support Darfur militias might receive from Chad. Foucher  
said that other senior Chadians (including Daoussa Deby), who  
were not completely under Deby's control, were providing this  
assistance. Foucher suggested that Deby was powerless to  
stop them, despite wanting to promote peace and successful  
implementation of the DPA. Foucher said the GOF would have  
"no problems at all" supporting targeted sanctions against  
Daoussa Deby and others involved in assisting Darfur militia  
forces. He repeated, however, the GOF belief that President  
Deby was not involved in this assistance, that his intentions  
were good, and that he was powerless to stop Daoussa Deby and  
others who might be involved (the "loose electrons," as  
Foucher put it). He said that President Deby's powerlessness  
illustrated the weakness of the Chadian state.

NEW OFFENSIVE TAKING SHAPE IN SUDAN?

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13. (C) Foucher and Robert said the GOF was becoming more and more worried about a new offensive against N'Djamena that was taking shape on the Sudanese side of the border. "This is not based on rumors," Foucher said, but rather on the reports of MFA officials who had recently toured the border areas. The signs of a buildup were obvious, Foucher and Robert said, and were not being concealed. Such an offensive could be timed to take place at the end of the rainy season (which typically ends in mid-September) and before the deployment of a new UN mission for the Darfur region. Foucher worried that this new offensive might be more effective than the one in April, which suffered from uncoordinated leadership. He said that the one now taking shape appeared to be better organized.

#### DEBY'S INAUGURATION

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14. (C) FM Douste-Blazy was planning to attend President Deby's inauguration in N'Djamena on August 8, Foucher reported. Douste-Blazy would only be in Chad for a few hours and his participation would be largely ceremonial, but Foucher said that Douste-Blazy would meet privately with President Deby for a short time. Foucher said that Douste-Blazy would make two points: the need for Deby to continue to press for political dialogue with the opposition, even if the opposition displayed little interest in such a dialogue; and the need to continue seeking rapprochement with Sudan President Bashir. We suggested that this might be a good occasion for Douste-Blazy to ask that Chad cease supporting Darfur militia groups; Foucher indicated that the MFA would consider this point.

KHALIL IBRAHIM

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15. (C) Sudan deskoff Robert said that he met with JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim on August 1, noting that Ibrahim's meeting with "only" a deskoff was indicative of the status the MFA wanted to accord him. At the meeting, Khalil Ibrahim continued to resist signing the DPA, citing, in his view, its many shortcomings and his desire to renegotiate its provisions. Robert said that he reiterated to Khalil Ibrahim the need to support the DPA and to end his stance as an outside spoiler. Robert said that Khalil Ibrahim seemed unmoved by his arguments, and he lamented that Khalil Ibrahim might remain intransigent, having found for himself a more meaningful role as an outsider rather than as a DPA adherent.

#### FOUCHER'S FUTURE

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16. (C) Foucher said that his nomination as France's next ambassador to Chad was in the vetting process, stressing that "nothing is final until it's printed in the Journal Officiel." With his recent promotion, he was now at-grade to be an ambassador in France's system, thus overcoming an earlier hurdle. He would still have to be approved by the Council of Ministers (usually a formality, "although anything can happen," he commented). If everything went smoothly, he could go to N'Djamena in September, he said, but repeated that "it's not official yet, so please don't view it as a done deal."

17. (C) Septel reports Foucher's comments on Cote d'Ivoire and Togo.

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